IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, and 13, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image bearing member;

a charging member for charging said image bearing member, the charging member bearing electrically conductive particles that contact said image bearing member; and

a developer carrying member for carrying a developer provided with toner and electrically conductive particles, ~~the~~ said developer carrying ~~means~~ member being applied a voltage to develop an electrostatic image formed on said image bearing member with the developer and being capable of collecting a residual developer on said image bearing member, wherein said developer carrying member ~~is provided in such a manner that said developer carrying member~~ opposes said image bearing member ~~via~~ with a gap of from 150 μm ~~or more~~ and to 250 μm ~~or less~~ therebetween so as to enable the electrically conductive particles to fly from said developer carrying member to said image bearing member via the gap.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrically conductive particles ~~has~~ have a particle resistance of 10^{-1} Ωcm or more and 10^{12} Ωcm or less and a particle diameter of 0.5 μm or more and 10 μm or less.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrically conductive particles are charged to have a reverse polarity with respect to ~~said~~ the toner on said developer carrying member.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said charging member forms a nip portion between said charging member and said image bearing member, and ~~said~~ the electrically conductive particles are caused to intervene in ~~said~~ the nip portion.

5. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said charging member is capable of moving at a peripheral velocity different from a peripheral velocity of said image bearing member in ~~said~~ the nip portion.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a moving direction of the surface of said charging member is opposite to a moving direction of the surface of said image bearing member in ~~said~~ the nip portion.

7. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image bearing member is provided with a surface layer of a volume resistance of from ~~1 x~~ 10^9 Ωcm ~~or more and~~ to ~~1 x~~ 10^{14} Ωcm ~~or less~~.

8. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said charging member injects a charge to charge said image bearing member without ~~substantially generating a~~ substantial discharge between said charging member and said image bearing member.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said developer carrying member is capable of performing an operation of collecting ~~said~~ the residual developer from said image bearing member while simultaneously ~~with~~ performing a developing operation.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the voltage is applied to said developer carrying member to form~~, whereby~~ an electric field for causing ~~flying~~ a developer to fly from said developer carrying member to said image bearing member.

11. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a voltage is applied to said charging member.

12. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein said apparatus has~~ transferring means for transferring a toner image from said image bearing member to a recording medium.

13. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image bearing member, said charging member and said developer carrying member are provided in a process cartridge that is detachably mountable to ~~the~~ a main member of said apparatus.